

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08636 160829 Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /141 W
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P R 160721 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1742

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8636

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-15 MAY 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA MAY 15
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0127

1. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MR3 WAS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL DURING THE
24- HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS 15 MAY. THERE WERE 11 VC/NVA
INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED CONSISTING OF 3 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF),
3 GROUND CONTACTS, 2 SNIPING AND 3 MINE INCIDENTS. TOTAL CASUALTIES
FOR THE PERIOD WERE 3 FRIENDLY KILLED, 6 WOUNDED. THERE WERE NO
COMMUNIST CASUALTIES REPORTED. TON LE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP
RECEIVED

29 ROUNDS OF MIXED 61 MM AND 82 MM MORTAR FIRE. NO CASUALTIES OR
DAMAGE WERE REPORTED. THIS IS THE LIGHTEST SHELLING OF TON LE CHAM
SINCE THE SIEGE OF THE RANGER BASE CANIATGAN. AN AIR RESUPPLY
MISSION AT TON LE CHAM ON 14 MAY WAS UNSUCCESSFUL WHEN ALL FIVE
BUNDLES DROPPED, LANDED SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS OUTSIDE OF CAMP.
IN PLC TUY PROVINCE AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED
A GVN LAND DEVELOPMENT TEAM 7 KMS NORTHWEST OF LONG LE DISTRICT
TOWN. RESULTS WERE 1 FEMALE TEAM MEMBER KILLED, 1 TRACTOR DRIVER
WOUNDED, AND ANOTHER FEMALE TEAMSMEMBER CAPTURED BY THE
COMMUNISTS.

THE THREE MINE INCIDENTS REPORTED ABOVE, OCCURRED WHILE FARMERS
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 08636 160829 Z

WERE WORKING IN THEIR FIELDS. A FARMER WAS WOUNDED WHEN HE DETONATED A MINE 3 KMS SOUTHWEST OF DUC HOA DISTRICT TOWN, HAU NGHIA PROVINCE. IN LONG AN PROVINCE AN RF SOLDIER PROVIDING SECURITY FOR FARMERS IN THE FIELD DETONATED A MINE WOUNDING HIMSELF AND Q OTHER RF 4 KMS NORTH OF BEN LUC DISTRICT TOWN. IN THE THIRD INCIDENT A FARMER WAS KILLED WHEN HE DETONATED A MINE 7 KMS SOUTHWEST OF THU THUA DISTRICT TOWN.

2. CG MR 3 LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH IS NOW CONVINCED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD NO INTENTION OF OVERRUNNING TON LE CHAM. MINH TOLD THE CONGEN YESTERDAY THAT WHAT THEY HAD IN MIND WAS TO UNDERMINE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE EMBATTLED RANGERS IN THE HOPE THAT THE RANGERS WOULD DECIDE TO VACATE THE CAMP AND THIS FREE THE SAIGON RIVER CORRIDOR FOR THE TRANSPORT OF MEN AND MATERIEL TO VC/ NVA UNITS SOUTH AND EAST OF NHE BASE. MINH IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE RANGERS TO HOLD REGARDLESS OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. UNDERMINING RANGER CONFIDENCE AT THIS LATE DATE IS NOT IN THE CARDS, ACCORDING TO MINH, NOR WILL HE ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. HE REFERRED TO THE MORE THAN 1300 AIR SORTIES HE HAS PUT IN AND AROUND THE AREA SINCE THE ONSET OF THE ATTACK (FEBRUARY 26) AS EVIDENCE OF HIS OWN INTENTIONS AS WELL AS HOW HIGHLY HE VALUES THE HOLDING OF THIS STRATEGICALLY LOCATED BASE.

3. SEVERAL DAYS AGO, COLONEL MORROW, CHIEF CANDEL REGION V ICCS, TOLD CONGEN POLOFF THE ICCS WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW AN NVA PRISONER, IF ONE WAS AVAILABLE. DESPITE SEVERAL CANADIAN ATTEMPTS TO SECURE A PRISONER THROUGH THEN SC DELEGATE ON THE TPJMC, NONE WAS FORTHCOMING. YESTERDAY, THE CONGEN RAISED THIS MATTER WITH GENERAL MINH. MINH, QUICKLY SEEING THE ADVANTAGES IN SUCH AN INTERVIEW, PROMISED TO MAKE A RECENTLY CAPTURED NVA SOLDIER AVAILABLE TO THE ICCS.

4. THE GVN PROVINCE ADMINISTRATION OF HAU NGHIA HAS DISCOVERED A TACTIC TO AVOID THE ANNOYING DELAY BETWEEN A VC/ NVA CEASE- FIRE VIOLATION AND THE APPEARANCE OF THE ICCS. INSTEAD OF REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION, WHICH ENTAILS LONG DELAYS WHILE ICCS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS CONCURRENCE IS SOUTH, THE HAU NGHIA PROVINCE CHIEF REQUESTS AN ICCS " INSPECTION." TO REQUEST AN INSPECTION, PROVINCE CHIEF HAU NEED ONLY CALL THE RVN DELEGATE TO THE TPJMC AT CU CHI. THE RVN DELEGATE REQUESTS THAT THE ICCS INSPECT THE CEASE- FIRE VIOLATION SITE. THE CU CHI ICCS TEAM SIMPLY INFORMS
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 08636 160829 Z

ICCS BIEN HOA BY RADIO OR PHONE THAT THEY ARE GOING TO THE SITE. TIME CONSUMING PAPERWORK AND CLEARANCES ARE TEMPORARILY BY-PASSED.

A FEW DAYS, OR MORE OFTEN, A WEEK OR TWO LATER, A FORMAL INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON08636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajzh.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980219
Subject: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-15 MAY 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS, MILI, PINT
To: EA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005